In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A glow plug comprising:

a rod-shaped heating element, said rod-shaped heating element being composed of an electrically conductive ceramic material;

a carrier ring attached to said rod-shaped heating element, said carrier ring being composed of an electrically conductive material; and

a tubular casing attached to said carrier ring so as to surround said rod-shaped heating element and said carrier ring,

wherein said carrier ring has been attached to said rod-shaped heating element using a magnetic forming process as a result of which the carrier ring and rod-shaped heating element are in a plastically deformed state which is free of surface damage and thermal effects of being heated during attachment ~~thermal treatment effects and scuffing~~

2. (Currently Amended) The glow plug according to claim 1, wherein the tubular casing has been attached to said carrier ring using a magnetic forming process as a result of which the carrier ring and tubular casing are in a plastically deformed state which is free of surface damage and thermal effects of being heated during attachment ~~thermal treatment effects and scuffing~~

3. (Currently Amended) A glow plug comprising:

a rod-shaped heating element, said rod-shaped heating element being composed of an electrically conductive ceramic material;

a cylindrical carrier ring for attachment to said rod-shaped heating element, said cylindrical carrier ring being composed of a magnetically-deformable material and having an outer circumferential surface thereof being electrically insulated;

a contact sleeve for attachment to said rod-shaped heating element in an area adjacent to a connection side thereof so as to axially extend therefrom, said contact sleeve being composed of an electrically conductive material;

a tubular casing for surrounding said rod-shaped heating element, said cylindrical carrier ring and said contact sleeve, said tubular casing having been attached to said cylindrical carrier ring by a magnetic forming process so as not to physically contact said contact sleeve, and as a result of which the carrier ring and tubular casing are in a plastically deformed state which is free of surface damage and thermal effects of being heated during attachment, ~~thermal treatment effects and scuffing~~

wherein said contact sleeve and cylindrical carrier ring have been attached to said rod-shaped heating element by a magnetic forming process as a result of which the carrier ring and contact sleeve are in a plastically deformed state which is free of surface damage and thermal effects of being heated during attachment ~~thermal treatment effects and scuffing~~, and

wherein said cylindrical carrier ring has an external diameter which is greater than that of the contact sleeve.